

buffy; metentote dull whitish, its edges inconspicuously buffy. Sides of head grizzled greyish, very slightly suffused with buffy. Chin dull whitish, interramia white. Neck-band broad, the ends of the hairs deep buffy, the underfur dark slaty blackish. Front of fore limbs and upper side of feet ochraceous, inner side of thighs buffy, not white as in *apollinaris*. Tail almost obsolete, its situation marked by a small tuft of brownish hair amid the buffy of the rump.

Skull about as large as that of *S. purgatus*, larger and, especially, broader than that of *S. salentus*. Interorbital region flat, parallel-sided, not broadened anteriorly. Postorbital processes well developed, slender. Bullæ small.

Dimensions of the type (measured on skin):—

Head and body 420 mm.; tail about 5; hind foot 76; ear 45.

Skull: greatest length 75; condylo-incisive length 68; zygomatic breadth 36.5; nasals, oblique length 31.5, greatest breadth 16.3; interorbital breadth 16; intertemporal breadth 12; palatal foramina, length 18.7, breadth 7; breadth of palate between anterior premolars 11.3; cheek-tooth series (alveoli) 14.5.

*Hab.* Medellin. Type from San Pedro, another specimen from Concordia (*J. K. Salmon*).

*Type.* Adult male. B.M. no. 21.7.1.26. Original number 12. Collected December 1919. Received in exchange from Frère Nicéforo Maria.

This *Sylvilagus* is nearly allied to *S. apollinaris* of Bogotá, but is duller-coloured, with less prominently white under surface, especially posteriorly. From *S. salentus*, Allen, of which Mr. Anthony has kindly furnished me with some additional details, it is distinguished by its broader nasals and interorbital region, and its even shorter tail.

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XLVI.—*On a new Willow-Titmouse from Northern Italy.*

By PERCY R. LOWE, M.B.O.U., F.Z.S.

IN July last, during a short visit to the Valtournanche Valley in Northern Italy, I shot six willow-tits one morning on a steep forest-grown slope at an elevation of 7000 feet, and was struck by their peculiar and very dark appearance. Two of the birds were fully adult and much worn, while the remaining four were birds of the year in fresh plumage; but both young and adults exhibited the same striking dark coloration.

On comparing them with our series of the *Pœcile atricapillus* group in the British Museum, I could find nothing

like them, nor, as Dr. Hartert informed me, had they anything comparable in the fine series at Tring.

I propose, therefore, to distinguish this new form by the name of

*Pœcile atricapillus elenæ*, subsp. n.

*Adult.* Differs from *P. a. montanus* in having the upper parts smoky grey washed with olive-brown—the top of the head and the nape pure dull black, as compared with brownish black,—the white cheek-patches more restricted, and the black of the throat extending further on to the breast (as in *P. a. atricapillus*).

The underparts are greyer and the flanks only very faintly washed with fawn.

Freshly moulted wing- and tail-feathers in the adults are dark slaty in coloration, darker than in *P. a. borealis* and very much darker than in *P. a. montanus*.

In the four "birds of the year" the general coloration is still darker, the contrast between young examples of *P. a. elenæ* and *P. a. borealis* being very striking and obvious indeed (mantle dark olive-grey, as contrasted with pale grey-brown).

Young *P. a. elenæ* are very noticeably darker even than young birds of the Japanese form *P. a. restrictus*, while, as an indication of their dark coloration, they are darker than *P. palustris pœcilopsis*, Sharpe.

*Type* in Brit. Mus. ♀ juv. Brenil, Valtournanche, N. Italy, 27. vii. 21. Coll. P. R. Lowe. Reg. Brit. Mus. 1921. 8. 2. 7.

I note little in the measurements as between *P. a. borealis* and *P. a. elenæ*.

In choosing a juvenile example as the type, I do so because it seemed to be possible to gain a more accurate perception of colour-differences in fresh-plumaged juveniles, and it is just as easy to compare juveniles with juveniles as adults with adults of various races.

XLVII.—On new Forms of South-American Birds.

By C. CHUBB, M.B.O.U., F.Z.S.

*Sturnella magna monticola*, subsp. n.

*Adult male.* Differs from *S. magna meridionalis*, Selater, and *S. magna paralius*, Bangs, in being chestnut-brown on the upper surface instead of blackish and the general measurements smaller.